States/UTs.	Number of P.T.Gs.
Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	2
West Bengal	3
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5
TOTAL:	75

Projects for the welfare of tribals in NER

1464. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects proposed/taken up by Government for the welfare of the tribal people in the North Eastern States, more particularly in Assam;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned for such schemes in North Eastern States, State-wise;

(c) the present status of the schemes taken in North-East, particularly in Assam; and

(d) whether the implementation of the schemes is being monitored, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes/programmes for the welfare of tribal people in the North Eastern States, including Assam. The list of schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs being implemented for the welfare of tribal people is enclosed as Statement-I (*See* below). Details of funds released to North Eastern States under various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06), alongwith the unspent balances, are at Annexures-II. Out of a total amount of Rs. 40,246.96 lakh released to the North Eastern States during 2003-04 to 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 24,643.27 lakh, representing 61.23% of the total amount released during the said periods, has been reported to be utilised by the concerned States for the purpose for which funds were released. The Ministry has, further, allocated a total amount of Rs. 18298.99 lakh to the North-Eastern States during 2006-07 for implementation of various schemes/programmes of this Ministry as per details given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) In order to ensure that the funds released under the schemes of the Ministry are utilised properly and expeditiously, the Ministry ensures that release of further funds is linked to the utilisation of funds within the time limit prescribed for the purpose. The Ministry also regularly monitors the implementation of various tribal welfare schemes through review meetings with the State Government officials.

Statement-I

Major Schemes/Programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

Central Sector Schemes

1. Grant-in-Aid to NGOs for Scheduled Tribes including Coaching and Allied and award for exemplary service
2. Vocational Training in Tribal Areas
3. Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets
4. Grant-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce
5. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups
6. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Scheduled Tribe Students

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

7. Scheme of Post Matric, Book Bank & Upgradation of Merit of Scheduled Tribe Students
8. Girls Hostel & Boys Hostel for Scheduled Tribes
9. Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas
10. Research Information & Mass Education, Tribal Festival and Others

Special Area Programmes

11. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan
12. Grant-in-Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

Statement-II

Details of funds released to North Eastern States under the schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 and allocations for the year 2006-07

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07
		Funds Released	Unspent balance	Funds Released	Unspent Balance	Funds Released	Unspent Balance	Allocation
1	Arunachal Pradesh	602.23	95.19	547.54	53.72	689.19	689.19	554.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	Assam	3634.43	-1909.53	3552.40	357.88	5596.00	4907.72	5921.21
3	Manipur	2080.51	49.37	1688.54	100.79	2775.05	2208.38	2718.30
4	Meghalaya	731.67	0	2063.18	831.65	2399.28	1589.76	2904.45
5	Mizoram	680.28	275.72	1424.15	241.41	1347.59	1347.59	1283.49
6	Nagaland	1179.49	35.10	1187-58	1036.58	1816.03	1330.03	2845.22
7	Sikkim	201.07	21.98	189.50	48.72	324.24	324.24	220.20
8	Tripura	1735.30	-309.02	2015.97	491.48	1785.74	1785.74	1951.53
	TOTAL:	10844.98	2695.73	12668.86	3162.23	16733.12	14182.65	18298.99

Tribal status of Medana Community of A.P.

1465. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for any comments on the tribal status of the Medana Community of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the response of the public;

(c) the status of the demand of the Medana Community of Andhra Pradesh to be granted tribal status; and

(d) the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal to grant tribal status to the Medana community has been received.

(b) to (d) Does not arise, as there is no proposal for inclusion of the Medana community as a Scheduled Tribe.

Investment in plantations

1466. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow the private sector to invest in plantations to help restore degraded forest area;

(b) whether the rationale behind this move is that the private sector, unlike cash-strapped States , has the resources and organizational skills to reclaim the degraded forest land; and